

# Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal

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## Editorial

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## Editorial

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It's a great temptation, when composing the editorial introduction for a new issue, to attempt to tease out a unifying theme from the eclectic mix of articles. A theme more tightly focused than the overall mission of the journal, perhaps something that reflects the current social/ political/ academic/ (insert your own focus) atmosphere. We want to credit the journal as a magnetic force that attracts thoughtful analysis, insightful reflections, inspiring practical examples, and rich resources that advance the mission of Jesuit higher education. We hope that the articles published here, while eclectic in the specifics of place and experience, are also woven together into a recognizable tapestry of Ignatian-inspired service, justice, common good, and discernment. But a theme more tightly focused than the broad mission is elusive.

Much like teaching, we cultivate the ground, plant the seeds, and attempt to remove the weeds, but the harvest is in the heart and mind of the seed (our students or our readers), not the sower (teacher or author/ editor). You, the reader, will find relevance—or not—in the articles published here. In this online presentation, you will choose the links that seem most interesting, and you will probably not stumble across an unexpected piece as you leaf past it (as you would on paper) looking for something else. Hyperlinks provide an efficiency in reaching the target and effectively limit the potential “happy accident” of an inspiring tangent. You will create your own theme, as you select the articles to read herein.

So we have not published a thematic issue, but we again offer a collection of articles examining various perspectives from a variety of disciplines on a central issue. The collection in this issue


features works from Loyola Marymount University's 2016 President's Institute, themed “*Fides et Ratio*: The Pursuit of Faith and Reason in the 21st Century Catholic University.” Our first collection, “[Occupy SLU](#),” composed of eight articles published in the Spring 2017 issue, has accumulated nearly 1,000 downloads to date.

A second feature in this issue highlights student reflections on their participation in the year-long Opus Prize selection process, culminating in a week of campus and community activities and the ceremonies where Sister Marilyn Lacey and her nonprofit organization Mercy Beyond Borders were awarded the \$1 million Opus Prize. The student and faculty reflections focus on their participation in the selection visits and the impact of that process on their own lives, quite apart from the services of the target organizations.

Creating a journal is exciting, hard work; building a journal from the start-up phase into an established publication is also hard work, perhaps harder as excitement gives way to the mundane tasks of developing sustainable processes and continually recruiting new talents and energies. Not to mention the ongoing need to get the word out about this journal as both a resource for faculty and administrators engaged in Jesuit higher education and a vehicle for sharing their research and practical examples of this calling.

Normally, these operational tasks remain behind the curtain, becoming visible only when something goes awry. However, when opportunities (a Fulbright) or emergencies (a death in the family) conspired to disrupt routine plans—as they did this past year—our behind-the-scenes heroes went above-and-beyond to fill the

gaps. Thank you, thank you, in this extended season of gratitude, for your dedication to the journal! And incidentally, you can follow Janet Lee's Fulbright adventures in her [online newsletter](#).

We welcome three new members to the editorial board of *JHE*, who have promptly stepped up to respond to assorted requests. Bonnie Wilson at St. Louis University co-curated the "Occupy SLU" collection published in our Spring 2017 issue and has joined Jeff Lalama as section editor for our Praxis section. Taraneh Wilkinson at Georgetown University and Desirae Zingarelli-Sweet at Loyola Marymount University have also joined the editorial team. Thank you to Phyllis Graham-Dickerson at Regis University who has co-edited the Praxis section for the past two years and to Amy Wainwright and Jaleh Fazelian, both at John Carroll University, who have co-edited the Resources section with Amy Phillips at Georgetown.  JHE